

an important role in governing Head Start and strengthen the focus on health, mental health, and obesity prevention.

Equally important are the things this bill does not include. It prohibits further use of the National Reporting System—high stakes testing that was inappropriate for 4-year olds and was draining time and dollars from Head Start programs. It does not include block grants to the states which would have diluted Head Start's high standards and comprehensive programming. And finally, I join with faith groups in Minnesota and around the country in applauding the successful efforts to defeat a provision to allow discrimination in hiring with Head Start dollars.

I congratulate Chairman MILLER and Speaker PELOSI for making our children's education a priority for the 110th Congress. I am pleased to support H.R. 1429 and look forward to continuing to put the interests of our children and our families first.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEVIN IRWIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Clark County Firefighter Kevin Irwin for his selfless role in saving nine of his fellow firefighter's lives.

On February 17, 2007, Clark County firefighters were dispatched to a fire in a large commercial warehouse in Las Vegas, Nevada. On this particular day, Firefighter Kevin Irwin arrived on the scene with the crew from Station 15, and served as an acting Engineer for the day. As the firefighters were battling the flames, Kevin noticed one of the exterior walls in the warehouse was giving in. In a rush to save the rest of the crew, Kevin quickly alerted the other men of their imminent danger and subsequently prevented their deaths.

Humbled about being referred to as a hero, Kevin says it is all a part of the job. He has served with the Clark County Fire Department for four years and has been under Captain Christian Grimes in Station 15 for the last two years. Kevin has been a resident of Nevada since 1991 and is married to wife Debora with two children, Jacob and Ashlyn.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Kevin Irwin for his heroism and his quick approach that saved nine fellow firefighters' lives. The service firefighters like Kevin provide, to save lives while risking their own is truly commendable. I applaud Kevin for his leadership and wish him continued success in his career.

IN MEMORY OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE MENDEL DAVIS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, when Mendel Davis came to Congress, he had some big shoes to fill. His namesake and predecessor, Mendel Rivers, had chaired the House Armed Services Committee at a time when committee

chairmen were powerful, and he had ruled the roost. He had secured for Charleston military installations, ranging from the Navy Yard, home port to surface ships and submarines, to Charleston Air Force Base, which boasted the first of the C-5As.

After Mendel Rivers died, Mendel Davis ran an impressive race, won a special election, and obtained a seat on the Science Committee and then on the House Armed Services Committee. He served there effectively and with distinction, and had he served long enough, he would have matched his namesake in influence and output.

Mendel Davis served ten years and never quite matched Mendel Rivers' seniority, but he worked every bit as hard, if not harder, for his constituents. From his seat on Armed Services, Mendel Davis never forgot where he came from or who sent him here, and he cared for his constituency. He helped bring the USS *Yorktown* to Patriot's Point, and with Senator Hollings' help, he helped fund and keep in place all that Mendel Rivers had brought to Charleston.

I came to Congress shortly after Mendel Davis had left, but I found that everyone who knew him remembered him and highly respected him. I did not see him often, but always enjoyed the opportunities we did encounter. Like all of his friends and acquaintances, I will long remember him and his great service to our country and to the House. His wife, Jane, and all his family have my deepest sympathy.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM F. "BABE" MARCELLINO

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dear friend and former member of my staff, William F. "Babe" Marcellino. The Babe passed away on May 9, 2007, after 90 glorious years. While I am saddened by his passing, I can't help smiling when I think about his life.

Babe Marcellino was an American original in every sense. He was a well respected political sage on Beacon Hill and in Boston City Hall. He served as a close advisor to Governor Foster Furcolo, Senate President Maurice Donahue and Mayor Kevin White. He came to work for me later in life and stayed with me into his 80s. He was the essence of wisdom and quiet elegance. When constituents walked through the door to my office, the Babe would greet them with a wink and a smile. When they broke down in tears under the weight of their problems, Babe would tell them he was on their side. And he always was. He helped hundreds of constituents solve their problems with the federal government. I especially relied on Babe to help with particularly difficult constituent matters, because of his incredible ability to put people at ease.

I will never forget his mastery of policy and his generosity of spirit following a terrible fire that ravaged an entire block of businesses right across from my Medford, MA, district office in February of 1994. Together, Babe Marcellino and I worked with the Small Business Administration and others in the federal

government to bring relief to devastated business owners in Medford Square and to rebuild the downtown. Babe Marcellino was an exemplary public servant.

Babe also was a wonderful teacher. He eagerly took younger staff members under his wing to impart his wisdom. Many of those former staffers have told me over the years that their experience in public service was richer for having known and learned from the Babe.

He dearly loved his alma mater Holy Cross, and devoted a large portion of his time ensuring that Holy Cross became a national educational treasure that could be enjoyed by all students, regardless of their socio-economic condition.

Babe was blessed with an extraordinary family for which his love was strong and enduring. He was remarkable for having two wonderful marriages. With his beloved first wife Maidie, he produced six incredible children—William Marcellino Jr., James Marcellino, Mary Zouberis, Richard Marcellino, John "Jocko" Marcellino, and Sister Noella Marcellino. After Maidie passed away, the Babe married the fabulous Marie, herself a widow. He "inherited" five terrific step-children—Cathy Doran, Jane Driscoll, Stephen Doran, Mark Doran and the late Daniel Doran. Babe leaves 21 grandchildren, each with their unique and special memories of their grandfather.

Watching Babe and Marie was like watching Fred and Ginger—they made a marvelous couple full of grace, style and class.

When you were in Babe's presence, you could not help but to feed off of his optimism and his incredible inner strength. He was the quintessential gentleman. He often remarked after an enjoyable time or conversation together that the experience had been "like a chunk of heaven."

Babe, it was an honor to have known you and worked with you—and I am proud to honor your exemplary public service, your extraordinary love of family, and your unwavering faith in God and the United States of America. Your whole life was a chunk of heaven and all of us who love you will miss you dearly.

A TRIBUTE TO SUE SARILYN WASHINGTON

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 14, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness and deep regret that many of us in this body rise to pay tribute to a wonderful lady and a close friend of mine—Mrs. Sue Sarilyn Washington. The words most often associated with her are "grace" and "compassion," and with those I wholeheartedly agree.

Just a quick glimpse of her professional life attests to her unselfish spirit. Sue Sarilyn Washington was an inspiration to those around her, and dedicated her time and spirit to many outstanding local and national organizations, including: the VA Medical Center of Dallas; Jack & Jill of America; Links, Inc. Dallas Chapter; Carousels, Dallas Chapter; Board of Trustees, Lutheran High School; the